

**REDACTED**

**DRAFT - DESK STATEMENT  
FLORIDA PHOSPHATE INITIATIVE  
January 29, 2010**

The news article published in *InsideEPA* on January 21, 2010, made several statements that may be alarming to the general public. EPA believes that it is important for the public to understand the risks from radiation exposure and EPA's efforts over the past years to address this matter.

The public should be assured that the radiation associated with phosphate mining is comparatively low-level and does not pose any acute health risks.

Individuals are exposed to many sources of radiation, including natural occurring material, man-made products, medical sources, and cosmic sources. The average annual dose to an individual from these exposures is 360 millirems per year. "Rem" is a standard unit that measures the effects of radiation on humans.

. As a result, EPA continues to work with the State of Florida and ATSDR to develop appropriate criteria to assess potential impacts, from both former phosphate mining sites that are currently in EPA's inventory of sites, as well as, formerly mined land that may have since been developed. EPA is currently investigating one former phosphate mining site, and is planning the investigation of several other phosphate mining sites.

Community involvement is an integral part of the Agency's mission.